

## ECOSYSTEM ROUNDTABLE ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE

June 28, 1999

The following issues were identified in relation to 18 proposals recommended for funding from the 1999 Proposal Solicitation Package. The issue and staff recommendation is listed for each of the proposals.

**1. State Agency Receivable Authority** - This issue was raised at the Policy Group Meeting and will be resolved at that level. Mary Nichols made the commitment to resolve state agency receivable authority so there will be no significant delay in contracting. Recommend forwarding the projects listed below upon resolution of the issue:

99-B124 - Lake Red Bluff Riparian Area Restoration and Education Support Project  
99-D119 - Determination of Causes of Dissolved Oxygen Depletion in the SJ River  
99-E101 - An Evaluation of the Potential Impact of the Chinese Mitten Crab  
99-E116 - Purple Loosestrife Prevention Detection & Control for Sac/SJ River Delta System  
99-F103 - Central Valley Steelhead Genetic Evaluation  
99-F106 - Development of a Comprehensive Implementation Plan for Marking

**NO RECOMMENDATION NECESSARY - TO BE RESOLVED AT THE AGENCY LEVEL.**

### **2. No Permission for Access**

99-B106 - East Delta Habitat Corridor (Georgiana Slough) (\$1,100,000).

**Proponent:** Habitat Assessment & Restoration Team, Inc.

**Staff Recommendation:** Project work would be done in the water and at the water's edge.

Obtain letter from project proponent clarifying where research would take place and if there are any access issues. Request that project proponent provide written permission for access from Reclamation District or property owner as appropriate, within 2 weeks of notification that the proposal has been funded.

99-C121- Douglas/Long Canyon Paired-Watershed Project (\$83,600)[also listed under no gov't notice]

**Proponent:** Placer County Water Agency PCWA

**Staff Recommendation:** Some field work will be conducted to modify and install stream gauges. Obtain letter from project proponent clarifying where this work will take place. Request that project proponent provide written permission for access from property owner or Forest Service as appropriate, within 2 weeks of notification that the proposal has been funded.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommend of funding these proposals conditioned upon receiving necessary permissions within two weeks of approval.**

**3. No Local Government Notice** - The PSP stated that all applicants must provide a copy of a letter notifying the local County Board of Supervisors and County Planning Department of their intent to submit a proposal for a project. The PSP did not, however, specify the ramifications of not supplying a copy of the letter. The intent was to provide up front notification to the counties regarding potential actions that could fall under their jurisdiction. The Issues Subcommittee should prepare language to include in future PSPs clearly describing the intent for local notification and ramifications of not responding to that request.

99-B146 - Species and Community Profiles of the San Francisco Bay Area Wetlands Ecosystem Goals Project (\$44,000)

Proponent: Friends of the San Francisco Estuary

Staff Recommendation: This project is development and distribution of a brochure. Recommend forwarding. See general statement above.

99-B156 - South Napa River Tidal Slough and Floodplain Restoration Project (\$1,520,000)

Proponent: City of American Canyon

Staff Recommendation: No local government notification necessary since this is the local entity. See general statement above.

99-B169 - Understanding Tidal Marsh Restoration Processes and Patterns (\$1,042,246)

Proponent: University of Washington, School of Fisheries

Staff Recommendation: This is a research project. Recommend forwarding. See general statement above.

99-C121- Douglas/Long Canyon Paired-Watershed Project (\$83,600)

Proponent: Placer County Water Agency PCWA

Staff Recommendation: This is primarily a research project which reviews historical streamflow and land use data. Recommend forwarding. See general statement above.

99-D113 - Chronic Toxicity of Environmental Contaminants in Sacramento Splittail: A Biomarker Approach (\$673,684)

Proponent: UC Davis, Dept of Animal Science

Staff Recommendation: This is a research project. Recommend forwarding. See general statement above.

99-F102 - Health Monitoring of Hatchery & Natural Fall-run Chinook in SJ River (\$37,860)

Proponent: US Fish & Wildlife Service

Staff Recommendation: This is a research project. Recommend forwarding. See general statement above.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommend forwarding all proposals for funding. The Issues Subcommittee will prepare language to include in future PSPs that clearly describe the intent for local notification and ramifications of not responding to that request.**

**4. Problem with contract language**

99-A109 - Fish Treadmill Developed Fish Screen Criteria For Native Sacramento-San Joaquin Watershed Fishes (\$1,036,821)

Proponent: Wildlife, Fish & Conservation Biology, UC Davis

Staff Recommendation: Upon legal review, it appears that the contract issues can be resolved. Recommend forwarding this project contingent upon resolution of contract issues within 30 days of funding notification.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Concur with staff recommendation.**

**5. Request for advanced funding**

99-G106 - Traveling Film Festival & Exhibit/McCormick-Williamson Restoration Film (\$50,000)

Proponent: Independent Documentary Group (IDG Films)

Staff Recommendation: It is CALFED policy not to provide advanced funds. Recommend forwarding the project without granting this request. This is second year funding. Funds were not advanced the first year with satisfactory results.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Concur with staff recommendation.**

**6. Request for additional 20% for CSUS to be contractor**

99-D119 - Determination of the Causes of Dissolved Oxygen Depletion in the San Joaquin River (\$866,408)

Proponent: Dept of Water Resources, Environmental Services Office

Staff Recommendation: Recommend forwarding this project without the 20% additional request for outside contracting. Contract directly with DWR.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Concur with staff recommendation.**

**7. Missing State and Federal Forms** - A number of proposals did not include the appropriate state and/or federal forms as required in the PSP. Staff recommendation is to require that these forms be submitted within two weeks from the date that the applicant is notified that the proposal has been funded. Issues Subcommittee should consider future PSP language which further defines ramifications.

**SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Recommend projects for funding with condition of submitting appropriate forms within two weeks from the date of approval. Will develop future PSP language which further defines ramifications if forms are not included in the initial proposal package.**

## **8. Public Controversy**

99-B131 - Yuba Tools: Collaborative Watershed Management for Flood Control

Proponent: Yuba Watershed Council & SYRCL

Staff Recommendation: Issues Subcommittee should develop a process to achieve the objective of the proposal in a collaborative manner. Potentially use process similar to Englebright, or expand Englebright process to broader watershed issues.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Ecosystem Roundtable members took under consideration the proposal and the public comment provided at the June 16, 1999 Ecosystem Roundtable Meeting. None of the members recommended funding the existing proposal as submitted. Members felt that the inability of SYRCL and Yuba County Water Agency to work together in the past, and the local conflict over the proposal would likely result in a plan which could not be implemented. Options that the subcommittee considered included:

- Not recommending the funding of the proposal. Suggest that the interested parties work together on their own and come back for future funding if they are able to resolve their issues. The subcommittee felt that considering the past efforts of these groups to work together have been totally unsuccessful it was unlikely to occur in this situation. The subcommittee felt there was an opportunity to bring opposing upper and lower watershed interests together, but that it was unlikely to happen on its own.
- Recommend providing funding for a facilitator to develop a collaborative process. No funds would be set aside for the implementation of a subsequent collaborative proposal. Members recognized the value of providing funds to facilitate a broad regional plan in a collaborative manner. Members felt that use of a facilitator was likely to move the process forward, but that without the promise and constraints for potential future funding significant funds could be expended without achieving the desired objective of developing a region wide watershed plan which addressed both environmental and flood damage reduction concerns.
- Members agreed that the preferred option would include providing funding for a facilitator to develop a collaborative process and that funds would be set aside for the implementation of a subsequent collaborative proposal. The subcommittee felt that CALFED is being presented with an opportunity to move regional watershed planning forward in the Yuba basin. It was recognized that future restoration activities in this area will only be able to move forward with broad local support and in the context of addressing other critical issues in the region including flood control. It was also recognized that the Yuba river supports an important anadromous fishery and that

significant restoration opportunities exist to improve it. The subcommittee also acknowledged that the process used on the Yuba river if successful could be a model for other watershed to bring together upper and lower watershed interests.

A number of restrictions were placed on this option. It was strongly felt that the locals need to take the initiative and make a commitment to move the process forward. Accordingly Ecosystem Roundtable members recommend committing \$30,000 towards a facilitated process to develop a collaborative proposal which would be funded with the remaining \$186,000. The \$186,000 would be set aside for this project until 9/30/99. At this time if a collaborative proposal had not been submitted to CALFED, considered and approved the funds would be returned to the pool and made available for other projects. In addition, the subcommittee requested that

- The local participants provide 25% cost share of the \$30,000 as a commitment of good faith.
- All interested parties be included as participants in the proposal including local governments from Yuba, Sutter and Nevada Counties, USFS, local water agencies and local environmental groups.

9. **No Issues or Conditions:**

The following proposals were recommended for funding without conditions:

99-A105	Fish Passage Improvement Project at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam	Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority	\$1,000,000
99-A117	Improve the Upstream Ladder & Barrier Weir @ Coleman Nat'l Fish Hatch. In Battle Creek	US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$1,663,400
99-B127	Reintroduction of Endangered Soft Bird's Beak to Restored Habitat- Suisun	UC Davis	\$ 148,627
99-B130	Development of an Implementation Plan for Lower Yuba River Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration	Surface Water Resources	\$ 171,100
99-B161	Riparian Corridor Acquisition and Restoration Assessment	US Bureau of Land Management	\$2,175,000
99-B190	Linked Hydrogeomorphic Ecosystem Models to Support Adaptive Mgmt Cosumnes- Mokelumne	UC Davis	\$1,546,016

99-C118	Biological Ag Systems in Cotton-BASIC-Reducing Synthetic Pesticides & Fertilizers in the No. SJ Valley	Sustainable Cotton Project (SCP)	\$ 216,150
99-D116	Assessment of Pesticide Effects on Fish & Their Food Resources in the Sac/SJ Delta	UC Berkeley	\$1,875,561
99-D123	Dissolved Organic Carbon Release from Delta Wetlands, Part 1	US Geological Survey	\$1,392,669
99-E104	Assessing Ecological & Economic Impacts of the Chinese Mitten crab	UC Berkeley	\$ 149,429
99-B158	Sacramento River Discovery Center	Sacramento River Discover Center	\$ 38,400
99-G100	Estuary Action Challenge Environmental Education Project	Earth Island Institute/Estuary Action Challenge	\$ 50,000
99-G104	The Learning Watershed Project	American River Watershed Institute	\$ 55,250
99-G107	River Studies Center Exhibits & Programs	San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust	\$ 68,415
99-G117	1999/2000 Bay-Delta Education Program	Water Education Foundation	\$ 32,300
99-G119	Watershed Educational Training	Colusa Co. Resource Conservation Dist.	\$ 13,000